

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 RSR-01 PPTE-00 /114 W

----- 122554

R 181011Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3802

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 9795

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-LEBANESE BORDER REOPENS

1. SYRIAN-LEBANESE BORDER REOPENED 1400Z AUGUST 17 AFTER MORE THAN 3 MONTHS DURING WHICH IT WAS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC TO AND FROM LEBANON. OPENING FOLLOWED CLOSELY OFFICIAL SARG ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DAMASCUS THAT SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN COURSE OF CHTOURA MEETINGS BETWEEN SARG AND GOL FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

2. NO DETAILS RE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT HAVE YET BEEN RELEASED, EXCEPT FOR LEBANESE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY PUBLICATION LATE AUGUST 17 OF VAGUELY-WORDED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH INDICATED THAT (A) PERMANENT LEBANESE-SYRIAN COMMISSION TO MEET IN COMING WEEKS TO WORK OUT BILATERAL DRAFT AGREEMENTS "TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES", WITH FORMINS ALSO TO MEET PERIODICALLY TO ASSIST THIS PROCESS; (B) GOL IS PREPARING URGENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO REGULATE AFFAIRS OF NON-INDIGENOUS WORKERS, ESPECIALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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SYRIANS, IN LEBANON; (C) TEMPORARY SYRIAN WORKERS IN

LEBANON TO BE ALLOWED APPLY FOR LEGAL WORK PERMITS AND
OBTAIN TREATMENT EQUIVALENT TO THAT ACCORDED LEBANESE;
(D) GOL AND SARG TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASED
TRADE ON RECIPROCAL BASIS; AND (E) FUTURE BILATERAL
MEETINGS TO BE HELD TO FOLLOW UP SUCH QUESTIONS AS
TRANSPORT AND SHARING OF ORONTES WATERS.
BUFFUM

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NNN

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